

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 28, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 28, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-21, 26-41, 43, 44, 46, 48-55, 82-86 and 90-111 are pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 57-72, 76-78 and 87-89 have been cancelled by Applicant. Claims 8, 11, 16, 19, 27, 33, 35, 36, 39, 40, 46 and 49 have been withdrawn. The claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-56 and 82-86, drawn to a method of expanding tubing, classified in class 72, subclass 370.06.
- II. Claims 57-81 and 87-89, drawn to an apparatus for expanding tubing, classified in class 72, subclass 370.08.

Upon election of either one of the inventions I or II above, Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect one of each of the following disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claims is finally held to be allowed:

- A. Vibration direction (claim 6).
- B. Expansion device Vibration:
 - i. Major portion of the expansion device is subject to vibration (claim 7)
 - ii. Selected portion of the expansion device is subjected to vibration (claim 8).
- C. Vibration of component:

- i. Substantial portion of the tube is vibrated (claim 11).
 - ii. Selected portion of the tube is vibrated (claim 12).
- D. Form of vibration:
 - i. Vibration induces physical movement (claim 15).
 - ii. Vibration induces contraction and expansion (claim 16).
- E. Vibration creation:
 - i. Vibration is created locally (claim 18).
 - ii. Vibration is created remotely (claim 19).
- F. Source of vibration coupling:
 - i. Directly coupling (claim 27).
 - ii. Indirectly coupling (claim 18).
- G. Vibration amplitude, frequency & form (claims 29, 30 & 31).
- H. Vibration is:
 - i. High frequency only (claim 32).
 - ii. Ultrasonic (claim 33).
 - iii. Electromagnetic (claim 35).
 - iv. Low frequency only (claim 36).
 - v. Low and High frequency (claim 39).
- I. Vibration is selected to:
 - i. Coincide with a natural frequency of the expansion device (claim 40).
 - ii. Avoid a natural frequency of the expansion device (claim 41).
- J. Expansion device is:
 - i. In sliding contact with the tube (claim 46).
 - ii. Translated axially relative to the tube (claim 48).
 - iii. Translated rotationally relative to the tubing (claim 49).

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, without traverse. New claims 90-111 have been added and are drawn to Group I.

Applicants provisionally elect:

multi-directional vibration in Species A,

Subgroup (i) of Species B,

Subgroup (ii) of Species C,

Subgroup (i) of Species D,

Subgroup (i) of Species E,

Subgroup (ii) of Species F,

constant vibration amplitude and frequency of Species G,

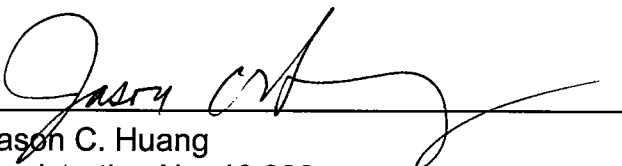
Subgroup (i) of Species H,

Subgroup (ii) of Species I, and

Subgroup (ii) of Species J, without traverse.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully request prosecution of claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 26, 28-32, 34, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 48, 50-55, 82-86 and 90-111.

Respectfully submitted,



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